

**To:** Press[Press@epa.gov]; EOC Public Information[EOC\_Public\_Information@epa.gov]  
**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 11:27:54 PM  
**Subject:** JIC:ACTION REGIONAL RESPONSE ON WALL STREET JOURNAL QUESTION FOR REGION: DEADLINE ASAP

Below is the language for Q16 from enforcement:

EPA has been working and will continue to work to identify the responsible parties. EPA is committed to ensuring that responsible parties contribute their fair share to address the problems within the watershed.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Aaron Urdiales

RCRA/CERCLA Technical Enforcement Program

US EPA Region 8, ENF-RC

1595 Wynkoop St

Denver, CO 80202

303-312-6844

**From:** Stavnes, Sandra  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 4:27 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn; EOC Public Information; Press  
**Cc:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; McGrath, Shaun; Card, Joan; Hestmark, Martin; Land, Kelcey; Urdiales, Aaron; Sisk, Richard; Piggott, Amelia; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Bielenberg, Ben  
**Subject:** RE: JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

Laura

Legal enforcement is working on Q 16 and we may have something we can pass on later today or tomorrow.

Cost information is best answered by the folks on the ground at the UC/JIC. Ben Bielenberg is also available to help if needed. I just found out that there are 2 site codes for work going on at the GKM and costs associated with each. One is for the pre event work under the time critical removal and the other is for activities after the blowout and related to it.

Sandy

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Sandra A. Stavnes

Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator

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email: [stavnes.sandra@epa.gov](mailto:stavnes.sandra@epa.gov)

phone: 303-312-6117

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 2:52 PM

**To:** EOC Public Information; Press

**Cc:** Stavnes, Sandra; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

I reached out to Sandy Stavnes and she's got someone working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> question but said the first two (highlighted here in yellow) need to be answered by those on-the-ground in Durango.

14. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

15. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

We hope to have an answer the following question by 4:00 today:

8. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

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**From:** Thomas, Latosha **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 11:28 AM

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Subject:** Fw: several questions // Gold King Mine

**Importance:** High

Hi Laura,

Could you all please address questions 6, 7, 8 below? Thanks!

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**From:** Friedland, Melissa on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 1:09 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** Fw: several questions // Gold King Mine

see below

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**From:** Friedland, Melissa on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 1:01 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Nancy  
**Subject:** Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

Nancy,

4. We're been using: greater than \$4 billion for Superfund expenditures at hard rock mining sites.

We have to ask region 8 about questions 6 , 7 and 8 which we are doing.

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**From:** Cohen, Nancy  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 12:54 PM  
**To:** EOC Technical Specialist  
**Cc:** EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** FW: several questions // Gold King Mine

Melissa: can you answer these? I know for #2 yesterday we said EPA is compiling a list of mining sites under EPA jurisdiction where the Administrator's statement on field investigations would apply. We also answered #3 . . .

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

**From:** Lee, Monica  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: several questions // Gold King Mine  
**Importance:** High

Hey Nancy – can you help for a quick turn around on this one for the WSJ? The first question needs to be directed to the White House, and on costs, I think we have to say we don't have estimates to share at this time.

1. ~~Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?~~ She'll have to ask the WH
2. Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?
3. Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?
4. How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?
5. ~~Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?~~ We don't have an estimate to share at this time.
6. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

7. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

8. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Let me know if you're able to help with the rest – thank you!

**From:** Harder, Amy [<mailto:Amy.Harder@wsj.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 12:21 PM  
**To:** Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Harrison, Melissa  
**Subject:** RE: several questions // Gold King Mine

Hi Tom, Liz and Melissa, I'm circling back on this. Our broader story is set to be published later this afternoon. I realize you guys have been swamped, but could you at least shed some light on the funding questions? And/or give us the last decade of data that this EPA website has for 1993-2005?

A response at your earliest convenience would be much appreciated.

Amy

Amy Harder

energy reporter

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**From:** Harder, Amy  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:01 AM  
**To:** 'Reynolds, Thomas'; 'Purchia, Liz'; 'Harrison, Melissa'  
**Subject:** several questions // Gold King Mine

Hi Tom, Liz and Melissa,

Thank you for answering all my questions in the last couple of days. I have a few more questions, not surprisingly. A couple of these I pinged you about yesterday, but I imagine they got lost in the shuffle.

It might be best if you could put us on the phone to talk through some of these questions, though I realize it's an all hands on deck kind of situation right now for you all, so perhaps tomorrow might be better. In any case, would you be able to get back to us on these as soon as you're able? These are questions from me, Dan Frosch in Colorado and Alexandra Berzon based in L.A. We're the main reporters working on this. I can be reached on my cell phone today at 202.906.9629.

Thanks much.

9. Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?
10. Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?
11. Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?
12. How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?
13. Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?
14. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

15. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

16. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Best,

Amy

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